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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/042,332	01/11/2002	Luc Jean Langouet	0284-0004	4420
7590	10/29/2004			EXAMINER KOBERT, RUSSELL MARC
TIMOTHY R DEWITT DEWITT ROGGIN, PLLC 1455 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE SUITE 100 WASHINGTON, DC 20004			ART UNIT 2829	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 10/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

37

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/042,332	LANGOUET ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Russell M Kobert	2829

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4, 13, 14 and 16-26 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) 1-4, 13, 14 and 16-26 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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1. The requirement to elect in the Restriction mailed on July 14, 2004 is hereby withdrawn in view of the new grounds for restriction as follows.

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-4, drawn to apparatus, classified in class 324, subclass 158.1.
- II. Claims 13 and 21, drawn to apparatus, classified in class 324, subclass 158.1.
- III. Claims 14 and 16-18, drawn to apparatus, classified in class 324, subclass 158.1.
- IV. Claims 19, 20 and 22-26, drawn to apparatus, classified in class 324, subclass 158.1.

3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because:

Inventions I, II and IV in a *first set* and III in a *second set* are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the combination can be practiced *without the use of a gasket* that is required in claim 14. The subcombination has separate utility such as use *without the requirement of a clamp* that is required in each of claims 1, 13, 19 and 20.

Inventions I and II in a *first set* and IV in a *second set* are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the combination can be practiced without the use of a *cover having a flat surface for mating with a flat surface of a base* that is required in each of claims 19 and 20. The subcombination has separate utility such as use without the requirement of a *tongue and groove structure of a cover for mating with a tongue and groove structure of a base* that is required in each of claims 1 and 13.

Inventions I and II are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the combination can be practiced without the use of a *housing having at least one connector module mounting hole* that is required in claim 13. The subcombination has separate utility such as use without the requirement of a *receiver and fin-shaped guide for guiding a base into the receiver* that is required in claim 1.

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4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

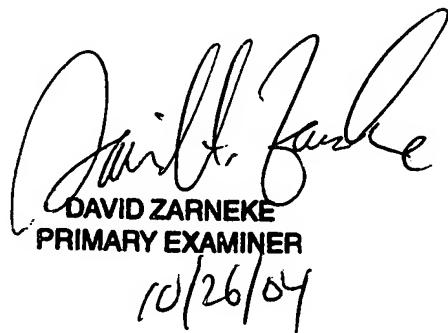
6. A telephone call was made to the Office of the Attorney of Record on October 18, 2004 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

7. A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire one month(s) from the date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Russell Kobert whose telephone number is (571) 272-1963. The Examiner's Supervisor, Michael J. Tokar, can be reached at (571) 272-1812. For an automated menu of Tech Center 2800 phone numbers call (571) 272-2800.



Russell M. Kobert
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2829
October 18, 2004



DAVID ZARNEKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
10/26/04